


**REMARKS**

The amendments remove the multiple dependencies of the claims. An action on the merits is requested at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 21, 2005

By 

Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 41,289

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant

708601

MAS/cdw  
DC2-708601